

REMARKS

Summary of Claim Status

Claims 1-4, 6-17, 22, and 24-28 are pending in the present application after entry of the present amendment. Applicants have canceled Claim 23, thereby rendering its rejection moot. Claims 1-4, 12-17, and 22-28 are rejected for the reasons discussed below. Claims 5-11 are objected to as depending from a rejected base claim, but indicated as allowable if properly rewritten in independent form. Applicants thank the Examiner for this acknowledgment of patentable subject matter.

Applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration of the claims and withdrawal of the pending rejections and objections in view of the present amendment and in light of the following discussion.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1, 2, 4, 12-17, 22, and 24-28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Lee, U.S. Patent No. 5,487,037 ("Lee"). Applicants thank the Examiner for an explicit and clear description of how Lee is being read. Applicants, however, respectfully traverse this rejection with respect to all claims.

Claim 5 is objected to as being dependent from a rejected base claim, but indicated as allowable if rewritten in independent form. Accordingly, Applicants have canceled Claim 5, and have incorporated the features of former Claim 5 into Claim 1. Therefore, Applicants believe Claim 1 is now in form for allowance, and allowance of Claim 1 is respectfully requested.

Claims 2, 4, and 12-17 depend, either directly or indirectly, from Claim 1, and thus include all of the limitations of Claim 1. For the reasons set forth above, Applicants believe Claim 1, as amended, is allowable. Therefore, for at least the same reasons, Applicants believe Claims 2, 4, and 12-17 are also allowable, and respectfully request allowance of such claims.

With respect to Claim 26, the Examiner stated: "Claims 26-28 correspond to detailed circuitry already discussed similarly with regard to claims 1, 12 and 13." Office Action at ¶ 2, p. 4. With respect to Claims 12-14, the Examiner stated: "Lee further teaches the memory array of Claim 1 . . . wherein the memory array is part of a configuration memory of a programmable logic device (title)." Office Action at ¶ 2, p. 3. Applicants respectfully disagree with the Examiner's characterization of the Lee reference. In particular, Applicants submit that Lee does not teach or even suggest a programmable logic device, as that term is known and used by those of ordinary skill in the art. For example, the specification describes an example of a programmable logic device in paragraph [0001]. In contrast, Lee's title merely states a "Programmable Memory and Cell." One of ordinary skill in the art would readily understand that a programmable memory is not a programmable logic device. In fact, nowhere in Lee is a programmable logic device, or any similar concept, even mentioned, much less taught or suggested.

Furthermore, Claim 26 recites a programmable logic device comprising configurable logic resources having a plurality of configuration bit terminals. Lee does not teach or disclose any such configurable logic resources. In addition, Claim 26 recites that the configuration bit terminals are connected to configuration bit nodes of the plurality of memory cells. Lee does not teach or even suggest such a connection. Lee merely describes a memory cell that offers users that need extra security ROM encoding. See, e.g., Lee at col. 9, line 65 – col. 10, line 3. In contrast, Claim 26 recites a programmable logic device having configurable logic resources.

Therefore, for at least the foregoing reasons, Applicants believe Claim 26 is allowable, and allowance of Claim 26 is respectfully requested.

Claims 27 and 28 depend from Claim 26, and thus include all of the limitations of Claim 26. For the reasons set forth above, Applicants believe Claim 26 is allowable. Therefore, for at least the same reasons, Applicants believe Claims 27 and 28 are also allowable, and respectfully request allowance of such claims.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claim 3 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lee in view of Zhang et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,986,923 ("Zhang"). Claim 3 depends from Claim 1, which is believed to be allowable, and thus includes all of the limitations of Claim 1. Furthermore, Claim 3 recites additional features. Applicants respectfully submit that Lee and Zhang, alone or in any combination, do not teach or suggest the features of Claim 3. Therefore, Applicants believe Claim 3 is allowable, and allowance of Claim 3 is respectfully requested.

Applicants have amended Claim 22 to incorporate the features of canceled Claim 23. Claim 23 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lee in view of Zhang, the Examiner stating:

Zhang et al. teaches in Figs. 1 and 2, a configurable resource (I/O ports 112, 114) connected to the configuration bit terminal (D1' or D1), the configuration terminal transmitting a configuration voltage to the configurable resource (col. 3, lines 1-3 and 58-60).

Office Action at ¶ 4, pp. 4-5. Applicants respectfully disagree with the Examiner's characterization of the reference.

Specifically, Applicants respectfully submit that Zhang does not teach a configurable resource. As shown in Figs. 1 and 2 of Zhang, I/O ports 112, 114 are merely the differential input and output terminals of storage cells 110 that at any time have inverse voltage levels. See, e.g., Zhang at col. 2, lines 41-45. There is no teaching or suggestion that I/O ports 112, 114 of Zhang are configurable logic resources, as recited in amended Claim 22. In fact, I/O ports 112, 114 of Zhang are merely the terminals for connecting storage cells 110 to bitlines Cl and CL'. See, e.g., Zhang at col. 2, lines 46-52. Nowhere in Zhang are configurable logic resources, or any similar term, even mentioned, much less disclosed or suggested. Similarly, as set forth above with respect to Claim 26, Lee does not teach or disclose configurable logic resources.

In contrast, Claim 22, as amended, recites an array of configurable logic resources connected to the memory cells. Claim 22 further recites that the array of configurable resources is connected to the memory cells. Applicants submit

that neither Lee nor Zhang, either alone or in any combination, teaches or suggests such features. Therefore, Applicants believe Claim 22 is allowable over the cited references, and respectfully request allowance of Claim 22.

Claims 24 and 25 depend, directly and indirectly, from Claim 22, and thus include all of the limitations of Claim 22. For the reasons set forth above, Applicants believe Claim 22, as amended, is allowable. Therefore, for at least the same reasons, Applicants believe Claims 24 and 25 are also allowable, and respectfully request allowance of such claims.

Objections

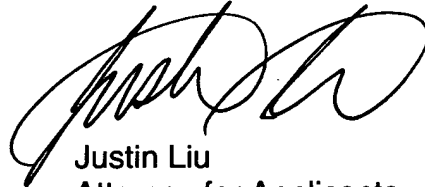
Claims 5-11 are objected to as being dependent from a rejected base claim, but indicated as otherwise allowable. Applicants thank the Examiner for this acknowledgement of allowable subject matter. As set forth above, Applicants have amended Claim 1 to correspond to the original Claim 5. Applicants have also amended and rewritten Claim 8 in independent form including all of the limitations of its base claim. Claims 6 and 7 have been amended to depend from Claim 1 for consistency with the cancellation of Claim 5 and the amendment of Claim 1, and thus include all of the limitations of Claim 1. Claims 9-11 depend from Claim 8, and thus include all of the limitations of Claim 8.

Therefore, Applicants believe Claims 6-11 have been properly rewritten and are now in form for allowance, and allowance of Claims 6-11 is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

Applicants have made other minor amendments to Claims 1, 22, and 26 merely to remove unnecessary typographical markings. No new matter has been introduced by any of the above amendments. In light of the above amendments and remarks, Applicants believe that Claims 1-4, 6-17, 22, and 24-28 are in condition for allowance, and allowance of the application is therefore respectfully requested. If action other than allowance is contemplated by the Examiner, the Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone Applicants' attorney, Justin Liu, at 408-879-4641.

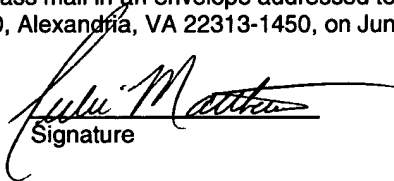
Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Justin Liu', written in a cursive style.

Justin Liu
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Reg. No. 51,959

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first-class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. BOX 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on June 21, 2005.

Julie Matthews
Name

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Julie Matthews', written in a cursive style.
Signature